

(1) Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, host advanced combat training exercises known as Red Flag for the United States Air Force and foreign participants.

(2) The Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex and Nevada Test and Training Range provide Red Flag participants with realistic, large force complex training sites.

(3) Participation in Red Flag exercises in the states of Nevada and Alaska by foreign allies provides opportunity for building partnerships and strengthening existing partnerships.

(4) The states of Nevada and Alaska provide the Department of the Air Force unique training environments for purposes of Red Flag exercises.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Red Flag exercises hosted in the states of Alaska and Nevada are critically important to ensuring a ready force and building partner capacity;

(2) the Department of the Air Force should continue to utilize both the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex and Nevada Test and Training Range for Red Flag exercises and other training opportunities; and

(3) the Department of the Air Force should make improvements and investments in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex and Nevada Test and Training Range to maximize training opportunities in accordance with the 2025 Air Test and Training Range Enhancement Plan.

SA 4653. Mr. AKAKA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 946, to enhance citizen access to Government information and services by establishing that Government documents issued to the public must be written clearly, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table as follows:

On page 2, line 9, strike “relevant to” and insert “necessary for”.

On page 2, strike lines 21 through 25 and insert the following:

(3) PLAIN WRITING.—The term “plain writing” means writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate to the subject or field and intended audience.

On page 3, line 18, insert “as required under paragraph (2)” after “website”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 21, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 21, 2010, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Investing in Infrastructure: Creating Jobs and Growing the Economy.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 21, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Welfare Reform: A New Conversation on Women and Poverty.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 21, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 21, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 21, 2010, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 21, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chas Cannon, a legislative fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the consideration of S. 3454.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent Erik Berdy, a legislative fellow in Senator INHOFE's office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 567, S. 3717.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3717) to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to provide for certain disclosures under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend the Senate for promptly taking up the Freedom of Information Act amendments to the Securities Exchange Act, Investment Company Act and Investment Advisers Act of 2010, S. 3717—an important, bipartisan bill to ensure that the Freedom of Information Act FOIA remains an effective tool to provide public access to information about the stability of our financial markets. This bill eliminates several broad FOIA exemptions for Security and Exchange Commission—SEC—records that were recently enacted as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The bill will also help ensure that the SEC has access to the information that the Commission needs to carry out its new enforcement activities under the new reforms.

I thank Senators GRASSLEY, CORNYN, and KAUFMAN for cosponsoring this important open government bill, and for working with me to promptly address this issue. I commend the many open government organizations, including OpenTheGovernment.org, the Project on Government Oversight, the American Library Association and the Sunlight Foundation for their support of this bill. I also thank the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Representative EDOLPHUS TOWNS, for introducing a companion bill, H.R. 6086, in the House of Representatives.

I supported the historic Wall Street reform law, because that law takes significant strides toward enhancing transparency and accountability in our financial system. But, I am concerned that the FOIA exemptions in section 9291 of that law, which was originally drafted in the House of Representatives and included in the final legislation, could be interpreted and implemented in a way that undermines this very important goal.

The Freedom of Information Act has long recognized the need to balance the government's legitimate interest in protecting confidential business records, trade secrets and other sensitive information from public disclosure, and preserving the public's right to know. To accomplish this, care must always be taken to ensure that exemptions to FOIA's disclosure requirements are narrowly and properly applied.

When Congress enacted the FOIA exemptions in section 9291, we sought to ensure that the SEC had access to the information that the Commission needed to protect American investors—not to shield information from the public. I